

Like so many other professions today, transportation professionals, including Traffic Engineers and transportation planners, sometimes sound like their talking in a foreign language. In most instances, acronyms are used to speed communication. While this may help the transportation professionals, it can be somewhat confusing to others.

To assist in your understanding of the transportation lingo, below are some commonly used acronyms and their meanings.

(Average Daily Traffic)- The amount of traffic traveling past a point during an average day.

AADT (Average Annual Daily Traffic) - Similar to ADT using the average day for the entire year.

AM Peak Hour - One morning hour normally during the 7-9 AM period having the highest traffic levels.

DUI/DWI (Driving Under the Influence/ Driving While Intoxicated) - Indication given to drivers operating a vehicle while impaired by drugs or alcohol.

ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991) - Federal Act governing transportation funding.

ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers) - Professional organization.

LOS (Level of Service) - The qualitative measure of traffic flow using an 'A' (best) to 'F' (worst) designation.

LS (Land Surveyor) - State registered Land Surveyor.

MUTCD (Manual On Uniform Traffic Control Devices) - A federal publication governing design and placement of all traffic controls (signs, signals, and pavement markings).

PE (Professional Engineer) - A State registered Engineer.

PM Peak Hour - One afternoon hour normally during the 4-6 PM period having the highest traffic levels.

TIS (Traffic Impact Statement or Study) - A study of the potential traffic impacts of a development on the adjacent transportation systems (roads, transit, pathways).

Trip Generation - The amount of traffic coming from and going to a development.

TWLTL (Two Way Left Turn Lane)- Center lane allowing left turns from both direction.

VPH (Vehicles Per Hour) - The number of vehicles passing a point in one hour